

**Community and Conference Announcements**

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**SEEDS**

*A weekly communication for WDC churches announcing what's new and good in WDC.*

Southern Hills Mennonite Church in Topeka, KS, has been reimagining what their congregation does together on Sunday mornings. Worship now begins at 9:30 (after an optional time of quiet reflection) followed by Worship Response at 10:20, where people can choose to discuss ideas presented in the sermon, pray in small groups for requests shared in worship, utilize the arts (drawing, writing, singing) to express their joys or sorrows to God, write a letter of concern or affirmation to community leaders or fellow church members, or simply talk with each other over a cup of coffee. Then people can join in "Education and Action" (i.e. Sunday School), which might include Bible study, a discussion of current events or books, a creation care project or a visit to the local Rescue Mission.

One way to describe the principles that inform these changes is the acronym EPIC - Experiential, Participatory, Image-rich, and Community-building. We want to experience God, not just talk about God. We want to be participants, not just spectators. We want to use sight as well as sound. We want to be a multi-voice community that reaches out beyond the church walls with good news for all people.

*--submitted by Roger Neufeld Smith, Southern Hills Mennonite Church, Topeka, KS*

**Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum**

**Working on your genealogy and/or family history and wish you could meet with like-minded people?**

Then you may like to attend a pilot meeting of the Goessel Historical and Genealogy Society (a working name) at the Museum on Thursday, March 14, at 7 p.m. The purpose of this proposed group will be to share stories and information sources, explore solutions to research issues, provide accountability, etc. This group will be very loosely organized and informal. The initial meeting will be a time to talk about the need for and feasibility of such a group and what it might hope to accomplish.

**Mark your calendars:** Saturday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum's annual Heritage Dinner. Special speaker: Mark Larson, Channel 12 meteorologist. Details coming.

**Camp Mennoscah**

Camp Mennoscah, a Christian camp in Murdock, KS, seeks full-time Campus and Facilities Director. High School or GED plus experience in general maintenance and repair required, including knowledge of electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and vehicles. Salary based on experience. Submit letter of interest and resume to Olivia Bartel, [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org), 620-297-3290, no later than April 1, 2013.

Summer's coming soon! Accepting applications for Camp Mennoscah's 2013 summer staff and counselors, volunteers for nurse, kitchen helpers. It's a great way to have fun, sweat a little, and be part of an important ministry to youth and folks of all ages.

The Mennonite Camping Association West-Midwest regional gathering will be at Camp Mennoscah, March 18-20. We'll accept registrations until we're full to the gills, so give us a holler and let us know that you're coming. Patty Shelly, Kevin Wilder, and Kent Miller will speak.

To Congo and Back! The Retirees' Relaxation Retreat, **April 22-24**, will be spending time in Kansas and the Congo, looking at "A Century of Change." This retreat is for retirees of all ages (or even just for interested persons). It's a trip well worth taking!

*Information for all of the above— email: [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) phone: 620-297-3290*

**The MCC Comforter Blitz** will be March 11 and 12 this year at the Journey at Yoder Campus, one mile north of Yoder, KS. Monday's hours will be from noon to 9 PM and Tuesday's hours are from 9 AM to 5 PM. Comforters will be tied for Mennonite Central Committee to send overseas to people in need. Come and have a good time while helping others. Bring a sack lunch if you are staying through a meal. Sloppy Joes will be available for a donation at noon on Tuesday. Call Carol Peters (316) 283-4232 or Pat Gilliland at (785) 286-0905 for more information, to reserve babysitting, or to report number of untied tops you are bringing.

**Jesus commanded us to love our enemies** and Moses said, "Thou shalt eat pie" (or so we imagine). First Mennonite Church & McPherson Church of the Brethren are hosting Ted & Company in bringing their lively fundraiser, "Peace, Pies and Prophets" that includes the show, "I'd Like to Buy an Enemy" to the McPherson Opera House, 219 S Main St, McPherson KS, on March 16 at 7 pm. General admission is free (with a very limited number of reserved seats at \$25 each). Homemade pies (furnished by First Mennonite and Church of the Brethren) will be auctioned off during the show and an offering will be received. **This is a fundraiser for Christian Peacemaker Teams**, a nonprofit that offers an alternative to violence around the world. Ted Swartz will also perform his one-man drama "Laughter is Sacred Space" on March 17 at 10:40 at the First Mennonite worship service. Donations towards his ministry will be gratefully received. The autobiographical drama is appropriate for Lenten worship. This "honest, funny, and vulnerable" reflection deals with issues "of the paradox of working with a comedic partner who's struggling with bipolar disorder," as well as "the challenge of writing and performing God's stories while experiencing the absence of God after Lee's death." Yet, it offers hope and humor as only Ted delivers. For more information, call 620-241-4040 or email Kathy Neufeld Dunn at: [pastorfmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfmc@gmail.com).

**Everence to hold health care reform seminar:** The central Kansas office of Everence Financial will present an informative seminar at First Mennonite Church in Newton at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 21. "Navigating the New: Health Care Reform and You" will help people understand how health care reform will affect individuals and businesses, how people will get health care coverage in the future and how reform has affected Everence health plans. The presentation will be delivered by David Gautsche, Senior Vice President of Products and Services for Everence. First Mennonite Church is at 429 E. First St. in Newton. This seminar will be in conjunction with the annual meeting of the central Kansas Everence Chapter. Those interested in attending the seminar should reserve a spot before March 14 by contacting the Everence office in Hesston: (620) 327-4043, toll free (877) 467-7294 or [darlene.buller@everence.com](mailto:darlene.buller@everence.com).

**Peace Connections' Annual Review, *Reflecting on the Past 30 Years***, Thursday, March 14, 7-8 pm, Cornerstone Law, 7th & Main (enter the back southwest door). Join us for conversation and refreshments.

**Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts: *Dance for the Hungry***, Sat. March 9, 7pm, Hesston High School auditorium. A charity dance concert for the Hesston Resource Center Food Bank presenting Contemporary Dance, Traditional Irish Dance, Ballet, & Jazz Dance performed by the Kaleidoscope and Stages Dancers. Admission: One non-perishable food item.

#### **Bethel College:**

Today (Sun., March 10) – "The Tattered Lincoln Photo Album: Lincoln's Likeness and Image in History and Memory," Brian Craig Miller, Emporia State University; 3:30 p.m., museum auditorium

Today (Sun., March 10) – Wind Ensemble spring concert, 4 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium

Sunday, March 24 – Concert Choir home concert, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall

**The annual report for the Newton EtCetra Shop is posted on the bulletin board.**